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CROFT RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1 9 49

Austin Priestman, M. B., Ch. B., D.P.H.
(Univ. Edin.)

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the
Croft Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the ANNUAL REPORT for 1949.

The general health of the District for the year under review would appear to be satisfactory, though the infantile mortality rate, one of the surest indices of health or otherwise, is still a good deal higher than that for the rest of England and Wales, though considerably lower than in 1948; the higher rate may be partly explained by the fact that the birth rate for the District is higher than for the rest of England and Wales, and that in an area with such a small population one death makes a considerable difference to the death rate.

Maternal mortality is satisfactory, as also is the death rate; heart diseases and cancer make their usual toll, together with non-tuberculous respiratory diseases, but the absence of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis as causes of death are very satisfactory.

The amount of infectious disease during the year has been pleasingly low and there has been no notification of tuberculosis during the year.

The number of vaccinations and immunisations have risen during the year.

It is gratifying to see that the number of municipally provided houses has increased during the year; this will be a relief to the pressing problem of shortage and should reflect itself in an increased health of the community.

As regards the prevention of illness the work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors, and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect upon the general health of the community.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health - W. Ferguson, M.B., Ch.P., D.P.H.
18th January - 25th June 1949.
Austin Priestman, M.B., Ch.P., D.P.H.
(Univ. Edin.)
appointed 18th July 1949.

Sanitary Inspector - J. D. Collins, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.
J. Hall, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres	-	19,731
Resident Population	-	2,680
Number of inhabited houses	-	743
Rateable Value at 1st April 1949	-	£ 9,432
Sum represented by a penny rate	-	£ 39/6/-
Rate in £ levied at 1st April 1949		7/6

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered during the year was 76, as against 60 in 1948, an increase of 16. The birth rates comparison shows that the rate for the District is in excess of that for the rest of England and Wales.

The number of still births registered during the year was 2, as against 1 in 1948, and the rate is greater than for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rates Comparisons.

	Live Births	Still Births	
Croft Rural District 1948	22.56	.38	per 1,000
Croft Rural District 1949	28.36	.75	estimated
England and Wales 1949	16.70	.39	population

Analysis of Births.

	1949		1948	
Live Births.	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	31	40	29	31
Illegitimate	3	2	.	.
Still Births				
Legitimate	1	1	1	.
Illegitimate	.	.	.	.

DEATHS. Maternal Mortality. As in 1948 there was no case of a woman dying in, or in consequence of childbirth in the District, this again compares favourably with the rest of England and Wales as the maternal death rate for the latter is .98 per 1,000 total births.

Infantile Mortality. The number of infants (under 1 year) who died during the year was 4, as against 5 in 1948. though this is in excess of the rate for the remainder of England and Wales as the comparison shows.

Infantile Mortality Comparisons		per 1,000 live births.
Croft Rural District 1948	-	83.33
Croft Rural District 1949	-	52.63
England and Wales	-	32.00

Causes of Infantile Deaths, Sexes and Ages.

1.	Acute Gastro Enteritis	M	2 months.
2.	Broncho Pneumonia	M	4 "
3.	Misadventure	F	7 weeks.
4.	Natural Causes	F	11 "

Deaths from all Causes. During 1949 there were 29 deaths from all causes in the District, as against 25 in 1948; the death rate is favourable with that for the rest of England and Wales and it is noted that 8 deaths were in the 55/75 age group and 9 in the over 75 group.

Death Rates Comparisons.		Death Rate per 1,000 population
Croft Rural District 1948	-	9.40
Croft Rural District 1949	-	10.82
England and Wales	-	11.70

Causes of all Deaths and Sexes.	1949		1948	
	M	F	M	F
Cancer of buc: cav: & oesoph	.	1	.	.
Cancer of all other sites	3	1	1	.
Diabetes	1	.	.	.
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	3	1	2	1
Heart Diseases	2	4	5	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	.	.	.	1
Pneumonia	1	2	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	.	.	.	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	1	.	.
Appendicitis	.	.	1	.
Other Digestive Disorders	.	1	.	.
Nephritis	.	1	.	.
Premature Birth	.	.	.	1
Road Traffic Accidents	2	.	1	.
Other Violent Causes	.	2	1	1
All Other Causes	.	2	1	1
	13	16	13	12

Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes, Number and rate per 1,000 population.

	1949		1948	
Cancer	5.	1.86	1.	.38
Respiratory (not T/B)	3.	1.12	4.	1.50
Heart Disease	6.	2.24	9.	3.38
T/B Pulmonary	.	.	.	.
T/B Non-pulmonary	.	.	.	.
Other Circulatory Diseases	.	.	1.	.38
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	4.	1.50	3.	1.13

Infectious Diseases. There were only 16 cases of infectious diseases notified in the District during 1949, as against 34 in 1948.

Analysis and Comparisons		1949	1948
Scarlet Fever	...	5	2
Measles	...	11	29
Acute Pneumonia	...	.	2
Chicken Pox	...	.	.
Erysipelas	...	.	1
		16	34

Tuberculosis. There were no notifications of Tuberculosis during 1949, as against 2 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1948. Again there were no deaths from this diseases as in 1948.

Vaccinations and Immunisations. According to the records held there were 17 vaccinations carried out in 1949, as against 4 in 1948; 21 immunisations in 1949, as against 19 in 1948.

Age Groups and Comparisons.	1949		1948	
	0 - 5 yrs.	Over 5 yrs.	0 - 5 yrs.	Over 5 yrs.
Successful Vaccinations	13	4	4	.
	0 - 5 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	0 - 5 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.
Coplete Course of Immunisation	20	1	19	.

National Health Services Act 1946.

Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children,
" 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
" 24. Health Visiting.
" 25. Home Nursing.

Three District Nurses/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above four sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and which is attended by local practitioner and the District Nurse; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

Section 27. Ambulance Service. The North Riding County Council provide this service by arrangement with the St. John's Ambulance Brigade who have two vehicles stationed at Richmond. This service and an Hospital Car Service, under the Women's Voluntary Services is shared with three other Authorities.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

This section is referred to specifically in the concluding paragraph of my general observations.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council and during 1949 two cases received service.

Analysis.	No. of Cases	Need for Service	No. of Hours.
	1	Sickness of Housewife	136
	1	Domiciliary Confinement	102

Section 51. Mental Health. No Committee in the District, but no cases arose during the year.

Dental Services. This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council.

Section 47. National Assistance Act 1948. No cases removed during the year.

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The remainder of this report was compiled by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. D. Collins and I take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to him and his staff for their co-operative work in the daily duties of the Department and for the great assistance in preparing this report.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT.

The district is entirely agricultural in character and so far as is known there is no unemployment in the area.

WATER SUPPLY

There is a piped water supply to the principal parishes of the Rural District. The parishes of Cleasby, Cliffe, Manfield, Stapleton and Croft are supplied by the Tees Valley Water Board.

A bulk supply from the Tees Valley Water Board supplies through private mains, part of the parish of Over Dinsdale. The Council take a bulk supply from the Tees Valley Water Board to part of Dalton and from Richmond Rural District Council for parts of Dalton and Croft. The parish of Barton is supplied by a private undertaker.

These supplies are satisfactory in both quantity and quality although that at Barton is very hard, making necessary frequent descaling of back boilers of hot water installations.

In the parishes of Newton Morrell, Eryholme and Girsby as well as outlying parts of other parishes there is no mains water supply, the houses and farms in these parts being dependent on springs and wells. There is a public well at Eryholme. These supplies are not all entirely satisfactory in quantity and quality.

Samples of water for chemical and bacteriological examinations have been taken as follows:-

Date.	Address	Supply	Reason Taken.	Result.
17.10.49	Low House, Barton.	Well	Complaint from occupier.	Unfit for human consumption.

(Low House was vacated later in the year and was not re-occupied).

There are no installations for the treatment of water apart from filtration and chlorination (Tees Valley Water Board and Richmond R.D.C. water supply).

The following is a list giving degrees of temporary hardness for each supply:-

Tees Valley Water Board	2.7
Barton Water Supply	24.5
Richmond R.D.C. Supply	17.20

No water in the area is known to have plumbo solvent action.

The proportion of dwelling houses and population supplied from water mains is as follows:-

Parish	No. of occup'd Houses in Parish.	Approx. Pop.	Water Authority Supplying	Direct to Houses. Open	Direct to Houses. Meter	By means to stand-pipe.	Total Houses Sup-plied	% of houses Sup-plied	Pop. Sup-plied direct	Pop. supplied by standpipe.
Barton	161	574	Barton Limestone Co.	106	-	17	123	76.39	378	61
Newton Morrell	13	47	No public supply	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleasby	40	143	T.V.W.B.	14	5	-	19	47.5	68	-
Cliffe	12	44	T.V.W.B.	5	1	-	6	50	22	-
Manfield	65	232	T.W.W.B.	34	10	-	44	67.7	157	-
Croft (Squatters Huts)	52	186	Bulk supply from Richmond R.D.C. distributed by Croft R.D.C.	52	-	-	52	100	186	-
" (Other Houses)	129	428	T.V.W.B.	85	11	-	96	74.4	342	-
Dalton (Squatters Huts)	112	410	Bulk supply from Richmond R.D.C. distributed by Croft R.D.C.	112	-	-	112	100	410	-
" (Other Houses)	48	172	Bulk supply from T.V.W.B. distributed by Croft RDC	18	12	-	30	62.5	107	-
Eryholme	36	129	No public mains supply	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Girsby	11	40	-do-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Over Dinsdale	17	61	Private supply from T.V.W.B. Ib In Bulk.	15	-	-	15	88.2	53	-
Stapleton	58	207	T.V.W.B.	33	4	-	37	63.8	132	-
Totals	759	2,680		479	43	17	539	71%	1,862	61

WATER SUPPLY.

Improvements.

The scheme of water supply for part of the parish of Dalton was completed during 1949 at a total cost of £4,449. The amount of grant provisionally payable by the Ministry of Health was £1,200 and by the County Council £1,200, leaving £2,049 to be borne by the Council.

Proposed Schemes.

The Council discussed the question of a mains water supply scheme for Eryholme by a river crossing of the Tees from Hurworth or Neasham being a bulk supply from the Tees Valley Water Board in these parishes on the Durham side of the river in Darlington Rural District Council's area.

They also discussed a proposal to lay branch main from Cleasby through Wild Duck Lane, to Newton Morrell and Barton.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The villages of Barton and Stapleton have combined sewerage and sewage disposal systems. The villages of Cleasby, Eryhome, Manfield, Croft and Dalton have a combined sewer which discharges without proper treatment into ditches and water courses and in the remaining parishes of Newton Morrell, Cliffe, Girsby and Over Dinsdale no public sewer is available although there are few dwelling houses in these parishes and they are very scattered. In all of the parishes many houses have their own cesspool from which no complaints are received.

The Council periodically flush and clean the sewers and tanks at Barton and Stapleton and the combined sewers at Manfield, Croft and Dalton. The squatters sites at Croft and Dalton are properly drained (W.Cs. being provided) and have modern Sewage Disposal Works maintained by special staff appointed by the Council with the approval of the Ministry of Health.

The Council do not undertake the emptying of cesspools in the area.

Proposed Schemes.

The Council's consultant, L. Brooksbank of Bradford having previously submitted particulars for schemes at Croft, Dalton, Manfield, Cleasby and Stapleton as indicated in my report for 1948, provided detail plans for Croft which was forwarded to the County Council and the Ministry of Health for the approval and grant.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year two ashclosets and provies were converted into W.Cs. The Council do not pay a grant towards the cost of conversions.

Public Cleansing.

Public scavenging is carried out in the parish of Croft by arrangement with the Darlington Rural District Council, In the remaining villages and scattered hamlets refuse is removed by the inhabitants on to village dumps and night soil buried in the gardens.

The refuse on the squatters sites is collected once per week but/....

week but allowance was made for this in the rentals for accommodation.

The Council have had brought before them a scheme for the proper scavenging of the district but have made no decision in the matter.

Sanitary Inspection.

Summary of Inspections under the Public Health Acts.	No. of Visits.	No. of informal Notices served.	No. of informal Notices complied with.
Water Supplies	8	-	-
Housing Inspections	9	2	2
Water Closets	17	6	6
Drainage	9	1	1
Animal Nuisances	1	-	-
Other Nuisances.	2	2	2
Total.	46	11	11

General Inspections.

Cowsheds	11
Dairies	11
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	25
Inspections under Byelaws (Drain Tests etc).	56
Council House Inspections	19
Infectious Diseases	4
Food Inspections	27
Miscellaneous	25
Total:	178

Disinfestation.

No verminous premises were found during routine inspections and none were notified.

Schools.

No complaints were received of defects in schools in the rural area.

HOUSING.

1. Civil Building Licences.
New Dwellings by Private Enterprise.

One Building licence for the erection of a farm house at a cost of £2,880 was issued by the Ministry of Works during the year.

2. Miscellaneous Building Licences.

The Council as Licencing Authority issued 9 licences in connection with Housing repairs, improvements etc., amounting to £4,574.11.0d compared with 42 licences amounting to £5,601.6.11d during 1948.

3. Conversions and Adaptations.

During the year one conversion was licenced.

Conversion of disused shop into a dwelling house - £1,250.

(Note: This figure is included in the total of licences in connection with housing).

ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES.

A. Private Enterprise.

Three houses were completed by private enterprise compared with two during 1948, making a total of seven since 1946.

B. Council Houses.

During the year a total of twelve houses were completed and occupied compared with fourteen for 1948, situated as follows:-

Dalton Village	4
Strawgate Lane, Stapleton.	8
	12

The total number of Council houses erected since 1946 is 34.

Plans were approved and work commenced on the following houses:-

Eryholme	3
Barton	7
	10

Temporary Housing.

The following are the figures for the number of families housed on the various sites at December 31st, 1949:-

Technical Site	1
Site 1.	29
" 2.	23
" 3.	24
" 4.	15
" 5.	32
Comm. Site	40
	164

Adaptations on the Communal Site were almost completed by the end of the year and many of the twenty-four families resident on the Technical Site at the 1st January had been moved over to the newly adapted premises. This took place after it had been decided that the Technical Site was not suitable for adaptation for temporary housing purposes.

During the year a grocer's shop and fish shop was opened on the Communal Site to cater for the needs of the people on the various sites. A telephone kiosk is also available on this site and a Church of England and Roman Catholic Church had established temporary places for religious worship.

In order to foster a community spirit a large building was let as an Institute to a Committee formed from the families on the various sites.

Applications for Council Houses.

In accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health, a housing questionaire was forwarded to each applicant, and from the information received, the following summary was compiled to show the housing need of the district in February, 1949.

	Total No. of Separate Families.	No. of applicants included in previous column who are agricultural workers.
With separate homes,	45	14
Without separate homes,	36	5
Total	81	19

It was noted that 34 of the total applicants were persons who have squatted on an aerodrome site in the area or who live outside the area.

Plans under Byelaws.

The following is a list of plans submitted under the Council's Building Byelaws during the year.

	Approved.	Disapproved.
New Houses (including Council Houses),	4 (12 houses)	-
Alterations and additions to houses,	4	1
Conversions of Buildings into Houses,	3	-
Agricultural Buildings,	7	-
Shops, Stores, etc.,	2	-
Garages, Sheds, etc.,	2	-
Water Closets, drainage, etc.	6	-
Alterations to other buildings,	2	-
Total	30	1

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply

Every effort was made to keep a high standard for the production and handling of milk. Every new application, and every application for a Special Designation licence was dealt with by one or more visits, in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and County Council Representatives respectively, when advice was given to the Applicants with regard to alteration of buildings, new buildings, and the correct methods of producing clean milk.

On the 1st October, however, the Milk and Dairies Regulations of 1949 came into operation, and the responsibility for registration of all Dairy Farms and Dairy Farmers was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whilst the registration of Milk Distributors and other Dairy Premises remains the responsibility of the Local Authority. Under Part Vii of the Regulations, the Medical Officer of Health of the Local Authority is empowered to act to prevent infection of milk in all premises whether registered by the Local Authority or the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Food and Drugs Authority (i.e. the County Council) are responsible for the licencing of premises used for pasteurising or sterilising milk

Meat and Other Foods.

During the last quarter of the year a survey of all food premises in the area was carried out and the following schedule drawn up:-

	Public Houses, Hotels, Inns, Clubs etc.	Cafes.	Butchers Shops.	Fish Shops.	General Dealers.
(a) Satisfactory in all respects.	4	4	1	-	5
(b) Satisfactory in all respects except for sanitary accommodation.	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Satisfactory in all respects except for washing facilities.	-	-	-	2	1
(d) Satisfactory in all respects except for lighting and ventilation.	-	-	-	-	-
(e) Satisfactory in all respects except for decoration and minor repairs.	-	-	-	-	-
(f) Unsatisfactory (Under more than one of the above headings).	2	-	-	-	1
Total	7	4	1	2	7

Condemnation of Food.

No complaints were received from Butchers or Shopkeepers with regard to unfit food.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 14.

Preparation for manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

During the year one application was received for registration of premises for the above purpose. The premises were inspected, found to be suitable and duly registered.

Ice Cream.

One application was received for registration of premises for the storage and sale of ice-cream. The premises were inspected, found to be suitable and were registered.

Slaughter Houses. Slaughtering.

The Government scheme of Centralised Slaughterhouses was continued during the year and all slaughtering for the area was carried out at the Park Lane Slaughterhouse in Darlington.

The one registered house in the area was used occasionally for the slaughter of Cottagers Pigs.

2 new and/....

2 new and 1 renewal licences to slaughter animals were granted during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS - 1937 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of Inspections. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Number of Occu's Prosecuted. (6)
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,and 6 are to be enforced by local Authorities.	6	7	-	-
(2) Factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	4	6	-	-
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises).	-	-	-	-
Totals	10	13	-	-

Cases in which defects were found Nil.
Outworkers, Nil.

Miscellaneous.

Petroleum Regulations Act 1919.

2 new and 8 renewal licences to store petroleum spirit were issued during the year.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919.

One complaint was received with respect to an infestation of rats in business premises. A treatment was carried out with good result. The expenditure incurred was recovered from the owner.

Byelaws in force in district.

New Streets, - 1.1.40.
Slaughter Houses, - 6.1.25.
Building Byelaws, - 18.5.39.

Austin Priestman.

October, 1950. Medical Officer of Health.

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